Withdrawal of CRPF from Reserve Forests of Orissa

2820. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision has been taken that the Central Reserve Police Force is likely to be withdrawn from protection duty of the Barbera Reserved Forests in the State of Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether as per reply submitted in this House it was stated that the presence of the CRPF prevented the heavy timber smuggling in those forests;

(d) whether Union Government would give an assurance that after the withdrawal of the CRPF there would not be any timber smuggling or wildlife poaching; and

(e) if not, then why should the CRPF not continue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (e) In order to meet the requirements of force for Internal Security/Counter Insurgency duties, it has been decided to hand over the responsibility of forest protection to the State Police. Chief Minister of Orissa has informed that the State Government of Orissa is raising Forest Protection Force in the State. The deployment of CRPF has been continued for a further period of six months in February, 2003 so that the State Government should be in a position to raise the said force to take over the duties from CRPF. The deployment of specially raised Forest Protection Force in Orissa should ensure prevention of timber smuggling and wild-life poaching.

Meetings of Hindi Salahkar Samities

†2821. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quarterly meetings of Hindi Salahkar Samities in Ministries are to be presided over by Cabinet Ministers as per Official Languages Act;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the names of Ministries that violated the Act during 2002-2003; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government for making proper arrangement to do away with negligence of Official Languages Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Persons detained during Gujarat violence

2822. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons detained in the police and jail custody during the Gujarat violence indicating the period of detention i.e. (i) less than a week (ii) more than a week and (iii) more than a month;

(b) whether Government give the above informations for Godhra and post Godhra incidents separately; and

(c) number of charge-sheets that have been framed for Godhra and post Godhra incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (c) As per available information 23,777 accused have been arrested in substantive offences and charge-sheets have been filed in different courts of law in 2,014 cases in connection with the Gujarat violence in 2002.

Information regarding separate details of the Godhra and post-Godhra incidents and the period of detention has been sought from the State Government of Gujarat.

Nabbing of travelling agents

†2823. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the travelling agents nabbed by the police during last three years who send people abroad by forging documents;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.